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## **MESSAGE TO PARTIES**

### **Multilateral assessment and facilitative sharing of views**

I wish to draw the attention of all Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change to the next multilateral assessment (MA) working group session (WGS) and facilitative sharing of views (FSV) workshop, which are mandated events organized under the Subsidiary Body for Implementation (SBI).

In its meeting on 22 June 2020 the Bureau of the Conference of the Parties decided that, owing to the global coronavirus disease 2019 pandemic, the fifty-second sessions of the Subsidiary Bodies (SB 52) would be postponed until 2021. This decision will have an impact on the organization of the MA WGS and the FSV workshop.

In view of the uncertainty on how the global situation will evolve and the postponement of SB 52, information on the timing and modalities of the next MA WGS and FSV workshop will be provided in September 2020. The SBI Chair is considering ways to conduct the MA WGS and FSV workshop remotely, and will consult with Parties on this matter. The secretariat will inform Parties of the outcome of these consultations in due course, but would like to inform Parties that the question and answer period will be from August to November 2020 (see the annexes for further details).

The secretariat is aware that the uncertainty surrounding the organization of the sessions has an impact on Parties and their delegations, and is committed to supporting Parties as they implement their decisions to enhance the transparency arrangements under the Convention. The secretariat counts on the patience, understanding and support of Parties during these difficult times.

**Distribution:** To Parties and observer States to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change through their national focal points for climate change and diplomatic missions accredited to the Federal Republic of Germany.



The approach for the MA session and FSV workshop are in accordance with the guidelines and decisions 1/CP.16 and 2/CP.17 for the International Assessment and Review (IAR) and International Consultation and Analysis (ICA) processes respectively. The MA process is a part of the IAR process for developed country Parties that was established through decisions 1/CP.16 and 2/CP.17 and aims to promote the comparability of efforts among all developed country Parties; build confidence with regard to developed countries meeting their 2020 quantified economy-wide emission limitation and reduction targets (2020 targets); and enable Parties to discuss the review results of individual Parties.

The next MA session commences the fourth cycle of the IAR process and will be conducted for 10 developed country Parties (see table 1 in the annex I for the complete listing).<sup>1</sup>

The FSV process is part of the ICA process established through decision 2/CP.17. Modalities and guidelines for ICA, contained in paragraphs 56–62 of decision 2/CP.17 and annex IV of the same decision.

The MA and FSV processes involve an important preparatory stage, including a question and answer period between Parties presenting at the MA and FSV sessions and all other participating Parties. To prepare for the upcoming MA and FSV sessions the annexes contain a list of activities and inputs by Parties as requested in accordance with decision 2/CP.17.

The MA and FSV processes under the current international Measurement Reporting and Verification (MRV) framework are a key component that will lay a solid foundation for the operationalization of the enhanced transparency of action and support under the Paris Agreement. The IAR and ICA represent important steps for building trust and confidence that countries are moving forward to implement more ambitious climate action.

The secretariat hopes this information provided in this message and its annexes will assist Parties in their preparation for, and participation in the MA and FSV processes. Questions or requests for clarification can be addressed to [ma-portal@unfccc.int](mailto:ma-portal@unfccc.int) and [ica@unfccc.int](mailto:ica@unfccc.int) respectively.

Yours sincerely,

*(Signed by)*

Patricia Espinosa

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<sup>1</sup> Further information on the date and timeline of this MA session will be posted on the UNFCCC webpage at <https://unfccc.int/ma>.



## Annex I

### Overview of the issues related to the preparation and conduct of multilateral assessment

#### I. Background for the multilateral assessment under the international assessment and review

1. The International assessment and review (IAR) process is a process under the Subsidiary Body of Implementation (SBI) that aims to promote the comparability of efforts among all developed country Parties with regard to their 2020 quantified economy-wide emission limitation and reduction targets (2020 targets). Modalities and procedures of IAR are elaborated in annex II to decision 2/CP.17, document FCCC/CP/2011/9/Add.1, pages 36–38.

2. The fourth cycle of the IAR process (2020–2021) comprises:

- a. Submission by developed countries of their fourth biennial reports (BR4);
- b. A technical review of BR4; and
- c. A multilateral assessment (MA) of the progress made by developed country Parties towards their 2020 targets.

The Multilateral Assessment is based on the Party's technical review report, the biennial report, the national greenhouse gas (GHG) inventory and any supplementary information on the achievement of the Party's 2020 target. There are three stages to MA:

- a. A three-month question and answer (Q&A) period before the MA SBI working group session (WGS);
- b. An international assessment of the Parties under MA during the SBI WGS, through an oral presentation followed by an oral Q&A session; and
- c. Completion of the Party record through a summary report after the SBI WGS.

3. The outputs of the MA process for each developed country Party forms the basis of a Party record prepared by the secretariat and are available on each developed country Party's MA webpage<sup>2</sup> including:

- a. Technical review reports;
- b. The compilation of Q&As;
- c. The summary report of the MA session;
- d. Any observations by the Party under review that are submitted within two months of the MA WGS.

4. Based on the Party record, the SBI will forward conclusions to relevant bodies under the Convention as appropriate.

#### II. Parties under multilateral assessment

5. Following the technical reviews of BR4 of developed Parties, the secretariat published the review reports of the 10 developed country Parties listed in table 1 below at least three months before the WGS.

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<sup>2</sup> Developed country Party webpages can be found on the MA webpage at <https://unfccc.int/ma>.



Table 1  
**List of Parties under multilateral assessment**

Name of Party
1. Australia
2. European Union
3. Finland
4. Germany
5. Italy
6. Netherlands
7. Norway
8. Portugal
9. Sweden
10. Switzerland

### III. The question and answer period before the multilateral assessment session

6. To prepare for this MA session, background documents for all developed country Parties are available on the individual Party webpages<sup>3</sup>. These background documents include:

- a. The technical review report of the biennial report and any other relevant review reports of the annual GHG inventory;
- b. The biennial report, the national GHG inventory, including the national inventory report; and
- c. Supplementary information on the achievement of the Party's 2020 target, including on the role of land use, land-use change and forestry, and carbon credits from market-based mechanisms.

7. In accordance with decision 2/CP.17, there will be a three month Q&A period prior to the WGS of the SBI. During this time any Party can submit questions to the Parties being multilaterally assessed during the upcoming WGS. The first month is allocated for questions, and the following two months are allocated for the Parties to provide answers.

8. To facilitate the Q&A period, Parties can use the MA Portal to prepare the Q&A. The MA Portal can be accessed by nominated users. To access the MA Portal, log-in credentials are required. The secretariat can provide log-in credentials for all relevant persons nominated by the national focal points to access the portal. If you require an update to the nominated users, please contact the secretariat at [MA-portal@unfccc.int](mailto:MA-portal@unfccc.int).

9. The timeline for the Q&A period for the next MA WGS is outlined in table 2 below. The working language for the Q&A period is English. Questions or requests for clarification and nominations can be addressed to the secretariat at: [MA-portal@unfccc.int](mailto:MA-portal@unfccc.int).

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<sup>3</sup> Individual developed country Party webpages are found at: <https://unfccc.int/MA>.



Table 2  
**Timeline of the question and answer period**

<b>Timeline</b>	<b>Action</b>	<b>Note</b>
10 Aug. to 7 Sept. 2020	<p>Any Party can submit questions to the Parties being assessed.</p> <p>Questions should fall into the following categories (annex II to decision 2/CP.17):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• All emissions and removals related to its quantified economy-wide emission reduction target;</li><li>• Assumptions, conditions and methodologies related to the attainment of its quantified economy-wide emission reduction target;</li><li>• Progress towards the achievement of its quantified economy-wide emission reduction target</li></ul>	<p>Questions can be submitted by nominated users via the MA Portal <a href="https://process.unfccc.int/sites/ma">https://process.unfccc.int/sites/ma</a>, and can be raised on the basis of the background documents accessible through the individual Party pages at <a href="https://unfccc.int/MA">https://unfccc.int/MA</a></p>
8 Sept. to 3 Nov. 2020	<p>The Parties being assessed will endeavour to answer the questions from all Parties that were submitted by 7 Sept. 2020. Parties are not obligated, but may wish to answer questions submitted after this date</p>	<p>Answers can be provided via the MA Portal <a href="https://process.unfccc.int/sites/ma">https://process.unfccc.int/sites/ma</a></p>
by 5 Nov. 2020	<p>The secretariat will compile these Q&amp;A by Party and upload them to the individual Party page</p>	<p>The compiled Q&amp;A will be made available on the individual Party page at <a href="https://unfccc.int/MA">https://unfccc.int/MA</a></p>

#### **IV. Format, duration and other organizational issues**

10. Further information on the format, duration and other organizational matters will be shared once the dates are confirmed by the Bureau.



## **Annex II**

### **Operational details for the workshop on the 9<sup>th</sup> facilitative sharing of views in Bonn, Germany**

#### **I. Background of and mandate for facilitative sharing of views under international consultation and analysis**

1. **International consultation and analysis** (ICA) of biennial update reports (BURs) is a process under the Subsidiary Body of Implementation (SBI) that aims to increase the transparency of mitigation actions and their effects, through the technical analysis of BURs by a team of technical experts in consultation with the Party concerned followed by a facilitative sharing of views. Modalities and guidelines for ICA are elaborated in paragraphs 56 – 62 of decision 2/CP.17 and annex IV of the same decision.
2. A technical analysis of the BURs submitted by Parties not included in Annex I to the Convention will have as the main outcome the summary report of the technical analysis.
3. The FSV workshop, with the BUR and summary report as input, will consist of a one-to three-hour session for each Party or group of Parties. The session will consist of a brief presentation by the Party or Parties concerned on their BUR, followed by questions and answers. Other interested Parties will be allowed to submit written questions in advance.
4. The outputs of the ICA process for each Party includes:
  - (i) A final summary report resulting from the technical analysis of BUR;
  - (ii) A record of the facilitative sharing of views summarizing the proceedings of the facilitative sharing of views session for the Party.

#### **II. Date of the workshop for the facilitative sharing of views**

1. The dates for the workshop for the facilitative sharing of views will be confirmed in late September.

#### **III. Parties for FSV during SBI52**

2. The Parties that have submitted a BUR and have a final summary report will be the focus for FSV at SBI 52. The final list of Parties will soon be available on the FSV website<sup>4</sup>.

#### **IV. Written questions in advance**

3. As provided in paragraph 6 of annex IV to decision 2/CP 16, Parties will be allowed to submit written questions in advance of the FSV workshop using an online platform. The secretariat will be in contact with all Parties (via nominated users to the FSV Portal) to inform them of the steps for submitting such written questions in advance.
4. The working language for the question and answer process will be English and the questions should be raised within the scope of the ICA process.

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<sup>4</sup> <https://unfccc.int/FSV>.



Table 1  
**Timeline for written questions**

<b>Timeline</b>	<b>Action</b>	<b>Note</b>
The session will start in September, and Parties will have 1 month for submitting questions	<b>Other interested Parties</b> may submit, through a <b>dedicated on-line portal</b> , questions to the Parties that are the focus of FSV at SBI 52.	Further communication will be shared with all Parties on the submission of questions.
1 day prior to the workshop	Publication of the written questions and answers.	
Date to be confirmed	<b>Parties</b> will make a presentation on their BURs, followed by a question and answer session.	

## **II. Format, duration and other organizational matters**

5. Further information on the format, duration and other organizational matters will be shared once the dates are confirmed by the Bureau.

**Questions about the FSV process can be addressed to the secretariat at [ica@unfccc.int](mailto:ica@unfccc.int).**

**Questions about the FSV portal can be addressed to the secretariat at [FSVportal@unfccc.int](mailto:FSVportal@unfccc.int).**

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